



Charles Street Byway Management Plan

Protecting and Promoting the Unique Qualities of the Charles Street Corridor

Dear Friend of Charles Street:

At long last, the Charles Street Byway Management Plan is now underway. This is a once-in-a-hundred-year opportunity and we need your help:

- to lead Baltimore's tourists to a collection of the wonders of Baltimore beyond the Inner Harbor
- to strengthen the spine that can effectively link many of Baltimore's cultural heritage resources
- to look at and think about Charles Street as a whole and make the fixes to the driving experience for both tourists and residents that have never happened because no one has ever focused on them
- to build another link between Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- to access new Federal and State dollars to make important improvements to the street and corridor
- to help protect and promote the unique qualities of the Charles Street corridor
- to build a plan which helps balance development, conservation, tourism, and economic uses of the land along the corridor
- to develop a national model for an urban scenic byway
- to get all kinds of people all along the corridor working together on something they care about



The Byway Management Plan is needed to gain National Scenic Byway designation for Charles Street through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) National Scenic Byway Program. The designation is sought to assist the City and the County in their efforts to both preserve and promote the rich historic and cultural heritage of Charles Street, Baltimore's premier street and best known artery—home to many of Baltimore's most important institutions and memories.

Over the last two years Baltimore City and Baltimore County have formed a management committee to develop a scope of work for the plan and hire a consultant to assist in the preparation of the byway management plan. The City has hired the team of Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, a multi-disciplined engineering firm from Sparks, Maryland, and Lardner/Klein Landscape

Architects, a nationally recognized firm with expertise in byway management planning from Alexandria, Virginia.

Funds for the planning effort come from the Federal Highway Administration's Scenic Byway Program. At the end of the management planning process, the citizens and neighbors that live, work, or otherwise enjoy Charles Street will decide whether to pursue designation as a National Scenic Byway through FHWA's National Scenic Byway program.

Whether or not such designation is achieved, the management planning effort will provide us with an important opportunity to plan for the future of Charles Street.

The most important aspect of the planning effort is the need to develop a collaborative process that encourages the active involvement of each and every

person with an interest in the future of Charles Street and to make that involvement an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. While it is not possible to involve every person directly in every decision, it is possible to set up a process whereby each point of view, each community group, and each type of potential user are all represented in the decision-making process.

The Charles Street Byway Management Plan Advisory Group

The Advisory Group will meet a total of seven times over the next ten to twelve months at different locations along the corridor. In addition there will be two public meetings: one to provide more information to the public about the planning effort and to review the plan’s vision, goals, and objectives; and a second meeting to review the plan’s recommended strategies for preserving and enhancing the Byway’s heritage resources and tourism development opportunities. If the Advisory Group recommends pursuing designation as a National Scenic Byway, then a permanent advisory group will be formed to implement the plan.

All meetings of the Advisory Group are open to the public and all are welcome to attend and participate. The tentative schedule of Advisory Group meetings, their topics, as well as community-wide public meetings (workshops) are as follows:

Mtg #	Purpose	Tentative Date
1	Vision and Goals	February 16
2	Corridor Definition	March 16
*	Community Workshops	April 20
3	Intrinsic Qualities	May 18
4	Preservation Strategies	June 15
5.	Enhancement Strategies	August 17
6.	Transportation/Roadside Management	September 21
*	Community Workshops	October 19
7.	Draft Plan Follow-up	November 16
	Final Plan	December 14
	Submit Nomination	Early 2006

Where can I get more information about the plan?

Please call, write, or email Jim Hall, the Project Manager for the City. He may be contacted at:

Baltimore City
 Department of Planning
 417 E. Fayette Street, 8th Floor
 Baltimore, MD 21202
 Telephone: 410-396-8350
 E-mail: JamesD.Hall@baltimorecity.gov

